

Questions and Comments from the Ballard Roadside Raingardens Meeting: Oct. 2, 2012

Questions

We heard at the Ballard District Council meeting that the project area would be east of 28th and north of 73rd (in the glacial outwash area). Why did the project area expand?

When will infiltration (PIT) tests occur?

Are the soil boring sites close to where rain gardens would be built?

Would PIT tests be in the same locations as the soil borings?

Why are you not taking soil borings in some locations?

Will you present all of the technical information, including historical data?

Will the project help to prevent wet basements?

Will deep infiltration (the use of UICs) be investigated?

Do you have experience using UICs? Do they cost more than shallow infiltration?

Is there a chance that the glacial till will prevent infiltration?

Have you established criteria to measure success?

What if the technical analysis indicates criteria will not be met?

How many gallons of control is the goal for the roadside raingardens project?

What is the acceptable infiltration rate for roadside raingardens: ¼-inch per hour or ½-inch per hour?

WSU says that ½-inch per hour is correct, so why is SPU using ¼-inch per hour?

How are the existing rain gardens performing? How much volume are they controlling?

How can SPU work to make streets more friendly for walking and biking?

Comments

Prompt: What are your concerns about building roadside raingardens in Ballard?

Narrower streets

Maintenance

Maximizing added benefits (beyond stormwater management)

Access to my home

Prompt: What are your suggestions for how we can make roadside raingardens in Ballard successful?

Work with adjacent property owners

Use the timeline you've planned because it provides sufficient time

Have smaller neighborhood (block) meetings, especially with people who have concerns

Go door-to-door to develop consensus and correct misconceptions

Allow for debate

Check with DPD to locate soils data from private developers

Show all soils data on a map (new and historical)

Consider backfilling the borings with gravel to encourage infiltration

Prompt: What is your feedback about the public involvement process?

At first it seemed too slow, but on second thought it's probably about the right timeline. Time will also show the rain gardens developing and the monitoring data will be available.

You haven't planned any public input on the use of UICs. Reconsider the use of UICs, depending on cost, to enable rain gardens in places where the soil is not as good.

Identify "block captains" to facilitate communications; could use the existing block watch structure

Send information to the community via church and other organizations